



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY TO BE HELD FOR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT

A deployment ceremony will be held for more than 90 Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 10 a.m. (MST) at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center theater.

The public is encouraged to attend the event as the units depart for about a yearlong deployment to the Middle East.

The mission of the Rapid City-based 1-189th is to provide aerial medical evacuation support with its HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters. The company is comprised of pilots, crew chiefs, medics, aviation operations specialists and other support personnel.

Planned speakers for the ceremony include Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several months of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, this will be the third mobilization for the unit which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn from 2011-2012 and supported peace-keeping operations in Kosovo from 2008-2009.



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## DAV HIRES ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of South Dakota has hired Ronnie Simonsen as assistant office manager.

Mr. Simonsen retired as a Sergeant First Class after 20 years of service in the United States Army. Most of his career was spent in the Army's Recruiting Command, an experience that has equipped him with a skill set that will serve him well in his new position. His responsibilities will include overseeing the day to day operations, supervising community outreach programs, fundraising, and providing support to committee chairs and members.



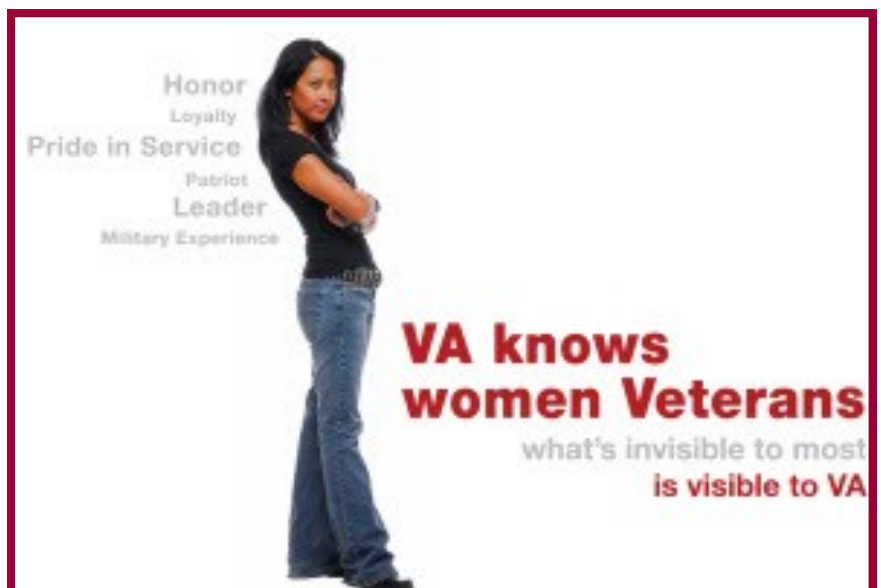
## WOMEN VETERANS TRAVELING ART EXHIBIT IN SIOUX FALLS

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System extends an invitation to a special women veterans' art exhibit Monday, September 25, at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center (2501 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street) from 4:00-6:30 PM

VA's Center for Women Veterans and the Veteran Artist Program, Inc. have collaborated on this project since March 2017 to raise awareness of women veterans' service and sacrifices. Ten art storyboards will be included. Storyboards include photos of the women veterans who submitted the artwork, short biographies and summaries of their creative background.

This exhibit precedes the annual Women Veterans Conference on September 29. Women veterans of all eras are invited, whether they are enrolled or not enrolled for VA care. Registration is required.

Please call Brenda Fredericks, Women Veterans Program Manager, at 605-336-3230, Ext. 9-6250 or Shirley Redmond, Public Affairs Officer, at 605-333-6889 for more information.





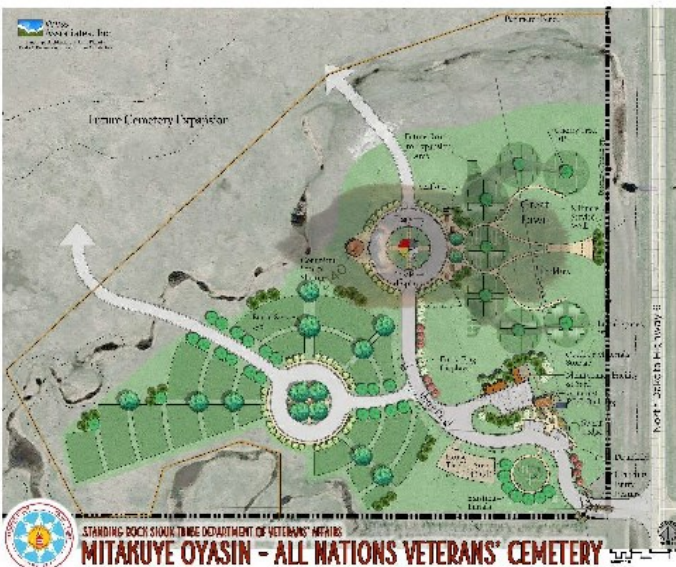
Staff at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home held a Pow/MIA Recognition Day at the Home September 15.



# ALL NATIONS

# VETERANS' CEMETERY

## GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY



1000 hours (10:00 am CST)  
September 25, 2017  
8 miles North of McLaughlin, SD  
on Highway 63

**For Further Information Contact:**  
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**Department of Veterans Affairs**  
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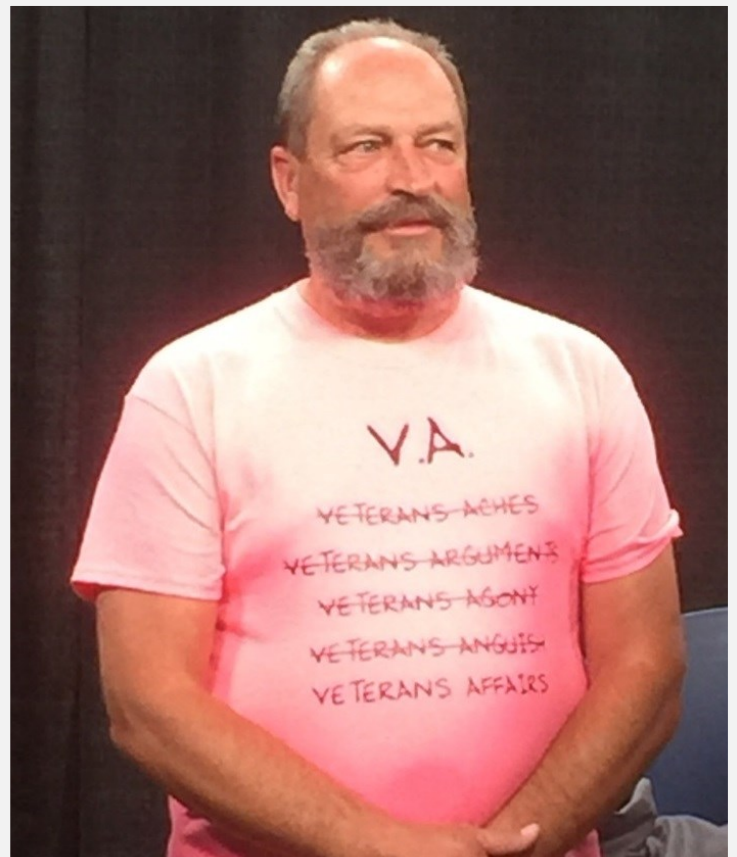
## VETERANS FOCUS OF “SOUTH DAKOTA FOCUS”

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman and VA Directors Darwin Goodspeed (SFVAHCS) and Sandra Horsman (VABHHCS) connected with veterans on SDPB’s “South Dakota Focus” program Thursday, Sept. 14.

The program afforded them the opportunity to talk about the issues facing veterans and the programs and services available to them and their families.

If you missed it, you can watch it live on-line at. <http://watch.sdpb.org/video/3004720078/>. The team ended the show with their annual flu shot and encouraged veterans and staff to get their shots.

Secretary Zimmerman models his shirt demonstrating his commitment to veterans affairs!!!!!!





## TC HILL TO DEPLOY TO IRAQ

TC Hill is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe from the Wakpala District. He is the son of Manaja Hill (CTVSO for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe).

Hill is a 2015 graduate of Wakpala High School where he received all academic achievement awards including Regent Scholar from the State of South Dakota. With the assistance of fellow Standing Rock Students, TC composed and performed a song for President Barrack Obama and the First Lady commemorating the Presidents visits and interactions with Standing Rock Youth.

TC Hill enlisted in the US Army on the Delayed enlistment option in 2014. Receiving Basic Combat Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Huachuca AZ. Currently, he is assigned to Company B, 229th Aviation Regiment stationed at Ft. Irwin, CA. Hill's Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) is 15W Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operator (Drone Pilot).

Specialist Hill is currently under orders for deployment to the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq. Pictured in the photo are: L to R: Craig Eagle Shield, US Army Retired, Tatanka Cante' Hokshila Hill, US Army Active Duty, Manaja Hill, US Army-Veterans Service Officer, David Harrison, US Army National Guard (Iraq), Veterans Service Officer.



## SDDVA STAFF VISIT LAKOTA FREEDOM CEMETERY

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman and Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard visited the Akicita Owicahe Lakota Freedom Cemetery near Pine Ridge last week.

They saw first-hand the challenges that the cemetery staff are facing with regard to terrain and watering system.



## COLMAN AND EGAN COMMUNITY VETERANS HONORED WITH QUILTS OF VALOR

Quilts of Valor is a non-profit foundation whose goal is to cover all physically or psychologically wounded service members with a freedom quilt, honoring them for their sacrifices.

The movement was originally started by Catherine Roberts of Seaford, Delaware in 2003 but has now spread across the United States and even has an international presence.

Since 2004 Mary Ehrichs of Egan, SD has been making quilts for the Quilts of Valor foundation.

The Colman-Egan School takes pride in the veterans of the community and presents a program every Veterans Day at the school. In 2014, Mrs. Ehrichs presented Troy McKenney, an instructor at Colman-Egan and then a member of the South Dakota National Air Guards, a Quilt of Valor following his return from duty in Afghanistan. That is when Pat Landis came up with the idea to present all veterans in the Colman and Egan communities with a Quilt of Valor.

The 2015 Colman-Egan School Veterans Day program honored all WWII and Korean War veterans. Each veteran received a quilt for their service to their country. The Berlin and Cuban Missile Crisis veterans received a quilt at the school program in 2016.

Knowing the 2017 Veterans Day program Vietnam War Veterans would be honored and 30 plus quilts would have to be made, Ehrichs and Landis had their work cut out for them.

But on March 18, 2017, Pat Landis passed away after a short illness. Her concern to get 30 plus quilts made for the 2017 Veterans Day program brought the community together.



Mary Elrichs with student



Pat Landis

On Pat's birthday, July 26, 46 people helped sew quilts tops for veterans. Quilters and non-quilters came to measure, cut, iron, sew and put quilts together.

"I had no idea what was going to happen," Ehrichs said. "People brought their own sewing machines and cutting equipment and ironing boards. That was an important part of it, the fellowship with everybody."

When the Colman-Egan School presents their annual Veterans Day program in November, there will be much pride and thanks in presenting Quilts of Valor to Vietnam War veterans because of their service to our country and the dedication of two women who makes this possible on Veterans Day. And, Pat Landis will be with us in spirit and smiling down on and thanking all veterans for their service to our great country.



# Upcoming Events

Sept 22 —USD /State Bar Association Free Drop in Legal Clinic—Rapid City VFW (420 Main)—9:00 am (MST)  
Sept 22—VA Veterans Stand Down—Rock Creek Community Center—9:00 am—11:30 am (CST)  
Sept 22—VA Veterans Stand Down—Running Antelope American Legion Post—1:00 pm—3:30 pm (CST)  
Sept 22—Veterans Stand Down—VFW Post 628—Sioux Falls (3601 S. Minnesota Ave)—9:00 am (CST)  
Sept 24—Gold Star Mothers Day  
Sept 25—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—VA Sioux Falls (2nd Floor Primary Care Addition)—4:00 pm (CST)  
Sept 26-28 National Women Veterans Art Exhibit—VA Sioux Falls—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CST)  
Sept 25-26—Aim to Win—Hunters Pointe Shooting Complex—Humboldt  
Sept 29—Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CST)  
Oct 5—Aberdeen Area Healthy Aging Resource Fair—Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Aberdeen (1620 NE Milwaukee Avenue) - 12:30—4:00 pm (CST)  
Oct 6-8—Fall VFW Conference—Oacoma—Cedar Shores  
Oct 7—Homecomings for VFW State Commander Williamson and VFW State Auxiliary President Alm—Cedar Shores—Oacoma—6:00 pm (CT)  
Nov 4—Public Agent Orange Forum—Meade County Court House in Sturgis (2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers—1300 Sherman Street) 9:00 am and 1:00 pm (MT)  
Nov 8—SD Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters in Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)  
Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg  
Nov 11—SDSU Military Appreciation Day—Kickoff at 2:00 pm (CT)  
Nov 11—American Heroes Outdoors Veterans Day Banquet—Aberdeen Elks Lodge 1046—5:00 pm (CST)  
Nov 11-12—Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat—Joy Ranch—Watertown  
Dec 2-3—Yellow Ribbon for the 153rd EN—Mitchell  
Dec 5—Governor's Budget Address—1:00 pm (CT)

## 2018

Jan 9—Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)  
Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre  
Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma  
Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish  
Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

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